

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 060805Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0045
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR CH US XO
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY ARTICLE REITERATES PRC POLICY TOWARD
THE THIRD WORLD

1. SUMMARY: THE PRC HAS UNDERSCORED THE CLOSENESS OF ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO THE THIRD WORLD JUST PRIOR TO VICE PREMIER LI
HSIEN-NIEN'S DEPARTURE FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND BANGLADESH IN AN
ARTICLE BY THE THEORETICAL GROUP OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU
EN-LAI'S BIRTH, THE AUTHORS ATTEMPT TO BALANCE
RECENT PRC MEDIA EMPHASIS ON THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE
"SECOND WORLD" (EUROPE, JAPAN, CANADA, AUSTRALIA) WITH A
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RESTATEMENT OF CHINESE VIEWS TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD. WE
ARE TOLD THAT PREMIER CHOU, WHO OVERSAW "FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WORK" UNTIL HIS DEATH, ENUNCIATED THE PRC POSITION ON
THE EQUALITY OF RELATIONS AMONG STATES, FOREIGN AID,
OVERSEAS CHINESE AND SUPPORT FOR THE OPPRESSED PEOPLES.
WE ARE ALSO REMINDED THAT CHOU TOLD FOREIGN LEADERS DURING
THE 1955 BANDUNG CONFERENCE CHINA IS NOT ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT AS

THE "UNITED STATES STILL OCCUPIES OUR TAIWAN BY FORCE." THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT DWELL ON US-PRC RELATIONS IN CONTRAST TO A SIMILAR ARTICLE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN JAN 1977.

THROUGH EMPHASIS ON CHOU'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE 1950'S "BANDUNG SPIRIT," THE AUTHORS INTIMATE THAT THE PRC WILL BE MORE ACTIVE DIPLOMATICALLY IN PURSUIT OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY GOALS IN THE THIRD WORLD AND WILL BE MORE OUTWARD LOOKING IN "LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHER NATIONS." THE MESSAGE, HOWEVER, IS LIKELY TO BE OVER-SHADOWED BY PRC MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. APPEARING IN THE MARCH 4 ISSUE OF PEOPLE'S DAILY (PAGE 2), A LONG ARTICLE BY THE THEORETICAL GROUP OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DETAILS THE PRC'S HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S ROLE IN CARRYING OUT PRC FOREIGN POLICY. ENTITLED "THE GREAT INTERNATIONALIST WARRIOR," THE ARTICLE IS PART OF A SERIES COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU EN-LAI'S BIRTH ON MARCH 5, HOWEVER, THE AUTHORS GO BEYOND PRAISING CHOU'S "EXCELLENT STYLE OF WORK" AND HIS INTERNATIONALIST OUTLOOK. THEY APPEAR TO BE ATTEMPTING TO STRIKE A BALANCE WITH RECENT MEDIA EMPHASIS ON THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE "SECOND WORLD" (EUROPE, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, CANADA) BY REITERATING CHINESE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE THIRD WORLD. PRC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED THE SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE AND HAVE RECENTLY UNDERScoreD THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF EUROPE TO THE PRC: THEY HAVE SIGNED A TRADE TREATY WITH THE COMMON MARKET, RECEIVED THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, STRENGTHENED TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA, AND HAVE INTIMATED THAT CHAIRMAN HUA WILL MAKE HIS FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP TO THE AREA LATER THIS YEAR.

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3. IN CONTRAST TO A MORE COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLE BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY (JANUARY 1977) OF
CHOU'S DEATH, WHICH REVIEWED THE TOTALITY OF PRC FOREIGN
POLICY, THE AUTHORS STRESS THIRD WORLD THEMES AND CHOU'S
INVOLVEMENT WITH:
--RESISTANCE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IN THE KOREAN WAR;
--SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS DURING THE
INDOCHINA WAR;
--THE PRC'S EIGHT PRINCIPLES ON FOREIGN AID IN 1964, WITH THE
PRC-BUILT TANZAM RAILROAD AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THEY SHOULD WORK;
--UNDERSCORING THAT THE "NEW CHINA" IS OPPOSED TO "GREAT
POWER CHAUVINISM," A MESSAGE THAT IN THE CONTEXT COULD BE AIMED
AT VIETNAM;
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--GUIDING CHINA TOWARD AN "INTERNATIONALIST OUTLOOK" IN ORDER TO
LEARN FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND ASSIST THE PRC IN ITS QUEST
FOR MODERNIZATION;
--ATTENDANCE AT THE 1955 BANDUNG CONFERENCE AND THE PRC'S
SUPPORT FOR THE "STRUGGLE OF THE THIRD WORLD AGAINST
COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM".

4. SEVERAL PASSAGES ON PRC POLICY TOWARD OVERSEAS
CHINESE SEEM DESIGNED TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN GOVERNMENTS. THE AUTHORS NOTE THAT PREMIER CHOU
WENT TO INDONESIA IN 1955 TO SIGN THE SINO-INDONESIAN
"TREATY CONCERNING THE DUAL NATIONALITY PROBLEM." ON
THE BASIS OF THIS TREATY, THE ARTICLE STATES, CHOU
"PATIENTLY ENCOURAGED" OVERSEAS CHINESE WHO HAVE RETAINED

PRC CITIZENSHIP TO OBSERVE THE LAWS OF THEIR COUNTRY
OF RESIDENCE. DESPITE THESE STATEMENTS, THE PRC WILL PROBABLY
STILL ENCOUNTER PROBELMS IN EXPLAINING ITS RENEWED EMPHASIS
ON OVERSEAS CHINESE AS AN "UNITED FRONT" FORCE.

5. WHILE THE AUTHORS MENTION THE UNITED STATES IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE KOREAN AND INDOCHINESE WARS, THEY DO NOT ADDRESS
SINO-US RELATIONS AS DNECCTLY AS THEY DID IN THE JANUARY 1977
ARTICLE. INSTEAD, THEY ONLY NOTE THAT PREMIER
CHOU TOLD VISITING GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT THE BANDUNG
CONFERENCE THAT THE PRC WAS NOT YET AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY SINCE
"THE UNITED STATES STILL OCCUPIES OUR TAIWAN BY FORCE."
NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE "THREE PRINCIPLES" FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WILL OVERSHADOW ITS MESSAGE, THE ARTICLE
REVIEWS PRC POLICY TOWARD THE THIRD WORLD JUST PRIOR TO
VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES AND
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BANGLADESH. ITS MAJOR THEMES (EQUALITY IN POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS, OVERSEAS CHINESE POLICY, CHINESE
RESISTANCE TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE IN ASIA) WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN
THE MONTHS AHEAD BY THE PRC'S MORE ACTIVE
DIPLOMATIC STYLE, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
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